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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alfonso de Jesus Valdes, et al.      Art Unit : Unknown  
Serial No. : 09/944,788      Examiner : Unknown  
Filed : August 31, 2001  
Title : PROBABILISTIC ALERT CORRELATION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**JAN 29 2002**

**Technology Center 2100**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 09/711,323, filed November 9, 2000 and entitled "Sensor and Alert Correlation in Intrusion Detection Systems," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 09/653,066, filed September 1, 2000 and entitled "Methods for Detecting and Diagnosing Abnormalities Using Real-Time Bayes Networks." Both of these patent applications are incorporated herein by reference. This application also claims priority under 35 USC §119(e) from co-pending Provisional patent application number 60/278,514, filed March 23, 2001, naming Alfonso de Jesus Valdes and Keith M. Skinner as inventors and entitled "Probabilistic Alert Correlation," which is incorporated herein by reference. --

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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